



NLR Community Garden Committee Meeting Minutes

June 22, 2016, 3:30–4:30 p.m.

ACTION ITEMS

- **Email Bernadette ASAP** if you are planning to attend Beau and Sara's **Farewell Potluck/Partner Appreciation luncheon** on Tuesday, August 16, at noon. We have invited Gordon from Home Depot and Gussie from American Composting as our special partner honorees.
You are encouraged, but not required, to bring a potluck item (maybe from your garden??). Bernadette is bringing a [Summer Vegetable Ziti](#) (with Italian sausage). **Let us know what you plan on bringing!**
- **Need a free olla?** Contact Sara: (864) 915-8334

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

- **EARLIER TIME AND NEW DATE for Next Committee Meeting: Wednesday, August 3, 3:00-4:30 PM.** We will meet for 90 minutes to review the Fall 2016 garden funding proposals.
- *See our Community Garden e-newsletter for more garden tips and upcoming events!*

GARDENING TIPS

- Squash bugs: Use sunflowers and cantaloupes to lure squash bugs away from squash plants. Then dispose of infested plants.
- Slugs: Put out citrus rinds overnight and throw away slug-covered rinds in the morning.

Committee members present:

First Presbyterian Church/Argenta Community Garden (Robert Fisher)

Iris Park Community Garden (Judy Cromwell, Fred Cromwell)

NLR City Council (Beth White)

NLR Employee Garden – City Services (Jennifer Johansen)

NLR Fit 2 Live (Bernadette Gunn Rhodes, Sara Webb)

Shorter College Community Garden (Harrison Johnson)

St. Joseph Center of Arkansas Community Garden (Ruth Landers)

St. Joseph Center of Arkansas Hunger Relief Garden (Sandy DeCoursey)

St. Joseph Universal Institute of Theology Community Garden (Michael Merritt)

St. Patrick's Community Garden (Robby McAllister)

Other individuals present:

Holly Anderson, Pulaski Conservation District

Simuel Ramey, local gardener

3:30-3:40 Welcome & Introductions

3:40-3:45 Approval of Minutes

Jennifer Johansen made a motion to approve minutes from May 25th meeting. Judy Cromwell seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

3:45-4:00 Fit 2 Live Updates

New Arkansas GardenCorps member

- Liz Kasper has accepted the position for 2016-2017. Liz is a 2015 Hendrix grad who ran a community garden there and even started her own farm after college. She has volunteered extensively at Dunbar Garden and is excited to bring her experience to NLR!
- Beau and Sara's last day of service will be 8/28. Sara will leave NLR a little earlier to get ready for grad school.
- Liz's first day of service will be Wed, 9/7.
- We got approval for Beau to work with Fit 2 Live part-time (10-12 hrs/wk) in September-December 2016 to get Liz oriented while Bernadette is on maternity leave.

Available seeds and starts

- Fit 2 Live has seeds available for almost any veggie you would want. Contact Beau or Sara to pick up.

Smart Watering Workshop

- Went well. A few passers-by made ollas, more were simply glad to receive information about smart watering.

Cooking Matters

- First 5-week session at the Argenta Branch Library has finished successfully with 8 loyal participants. [They were in the paper AGAIN!](#)
- Next 5-week session (starting 7/12) is full at 15 participants.
- Library is very satisfied with the partnership and wants to offer more classes in the fall with Liz's help.

Garden at Fire Station 9

- One of the crews at Station 9 built a raised bed there similar to the beds at Central Station. We got all materials from Home Depot for under \$200, and soil for \$65 from Plantopia. See photo!



Funding report

- Gardens whose reporting is still incomplete:
 - 4 The Youth: Still owes receipts for total \$2,000 funding amount, plus final report. Bernadette spoke with garden manager and she says she will get it in.

- NLR Community Farm: received 6-month report, still in need of receipts totaling \$1,900. KJ working on it. NLR CF has incorporated as a for-profit Benefit Corporation. The City Attorney's office has advised that they are no longer eligible for new funding since we can only fund nonprofits. Need to further investigate this since they are a Benefit Corporation, which is half non-profit and half for-profit.
- Shorter College: Still owes receipts for \$784 & final report.

Upcoming Reporting & Application Deadline – AUGUST 1st

- AUGUST 1st is the deadline for:
 - Fall 2015 final reports & receipts
 - Spring 2016 mid-year reports & receipts
 - Fall 2016 funding applications

Volunteer & harvest logs

- Please send numbers to Beau and Sara by 5th of each month.

Compost

- Please take pictures of yourself using your free compost from American Composting for their website!

4:00-4:25 Garden Updates

St. Joseph Center of Arkansas Community Garden

Lots of produce, cohesive group. Had to pull some plagued squash, but otherwise all is well.

Other:

Charlie's Garden: Ruth has been tending to in Charlie's absence. Any excess & a row of tomatoes goes to the Amboy Food Pantry and some to the farm stand. The last row is reserved for developmentally disabled adults, who come out and garden when they can. Row is planted with eggplant, cantaloupes, and okra.

Farm Stand is going well. Still looking for local farmers to sell at market.

Blessed Bee & Butterfly Garden: Partnership with Central Arkansas Master Naturalists.

Pollinator Garden with 4 beehives already there. Education kiosk in the middle. Have received City Beautiful and Ward Beautification funding.

Iris Park Community Garden

CAW installed standpipe, but faucet is leaking. Recommended to contact CAW directly.

Vegetables still ripening, had to pull cabbage. Tomatoes huge. Recommendation: Trim off leafy branches that aren't producing fruit, especially around bottom. Started small compost bin with skills learned in Fit 2 Live workshop with Don Chambers.

North Little Rock Employee Garden – City Services

On summer hiatus, too hot to grow. Soil not good, needs amending. Has an olla available to give away. Contact Sara if you want it. Group discussed garden needing organic compost to rebuild soil, and perhaps shade cloth for summer growing.

St. Joseph Center Hunger Relief Garden

Harvested 1,136 lbs. of red potatoes last Tuesday. Field will lay fallow for the summer, and will plant a late summer turnip crop in late August. Both turnip greens and roots will be harvested. Purchasing fence construction materials by end of July. Building fence 1st weeks of August.

Harris Elementary (On Hwy 161 just outside city limits. Simuel Ramey, representative)

Eggplant, potatoes and onions planted. 1.5 acres total. Tilling up another 1.5 acres. Kids come buy during the summer. Mr. Ramey is also turning land within NLR city limits into a garden (11th & F). Would like information on Nutrition Education in the schools.

Shorter College

Harvest corn. Want to involve kids from Child Development Center, but it's been too hot. Arkansas Community Corrections weeded. Harrison will send email contact for ACC liaison.

Pulaski Conservation District

Sent in grant application to NRCS (Dept of Ag) for pilot project - \$11,000 for two large pollinator gardens (Jacksonville Lighthouse Middle School & Daisy Bates Elementary School). Will be installed this fall. Program may expand if successful.

Also applying for grant from National Association of Conservation Districts to hire someone targeting urban gardening and food desert areas (less than 40 acres, commercial and non-commercial). Person would educate growers on NRCS conservation principles and identify barriers to implementing conservation measures. Would target Lake Maumelle watershed. Fit 2 Live has provided a letter of support.

First Presbyterian Church Community Garden

Gardens producing well. Keeping plants watered is the main issue. All spring crops have been replaced with summer crops. Some beds still need to be repaired due to deteriorating wood. Rain barrels not working right; they are not up high enough to get water across parking lot to garden. Need stands for barrels that are at least 4 feet off the ground.

St. Joseph Universal Institute of Theology

Friend of Michael's has a church around the corner from the garden, they are interested in partnering to bring kids out to the garden and hold community events there. Michael and Felecia operate a USDA feeding program at the garden every day from 3-4 PM. They serve 75 dinners per day. They will use local gymnasiums as feeding locations during the winter.

4:25-4:30 Public Comment

None.

4:30 Meeting Adjourned